

North China Daily News  
December 29, 1934

OBITUARY

Mrs. R. Audouard

The untimely death of Mrs. R. Audouard occurred yesterday in the Country Hospital at 2.40 p.m., as a result of an overdose of a veronal compound, taken as a sleeping potion. According to report, the patient was progressing favourably earlier yesterday, with the attending physicians being concerned only as to the healthy condition of the heart.

Mrs. Audouard is survived by her husband, Rolf Audouard, her father and mother (Mr. and Mrs. J. Griffin), who reside in Susanville, California, a sister and a brother, the latter having been a prominent athlete at the University of California. A younger brother is now studying at the university.

Mrs. Audouard arrived in Shanghai in the autumn of 1929, preceded by a brilliant career in university circles of journalism. Her connections with local English language dailies, as well as her signed articles to American magazines, established her journalistic career in Shanghai. On various papers, her feature articles brought her considerable popularity. Recognized papers, such as the "Christian Science Monitor", published her contributions under her name. During the 1932 Sino-Japanese hostilities, Mrs. Audouard contributed to local publications and subsequently held the editorship of "Health," at the same time co-editing the "China Digest."

After her freshman year at the University of Nevada, Mrs. Audouard completed her full course at the University of California in less than the prescribed time, graduating in 1928. Her career at the university was amplified by extra-curricular activities, which included running-up for the place of "poetess-laureate" on the campus. Under the advice of Mr. Irving Pichel, professor of dramatics and now a Hollywood star, her diction and vivid expressiveness brought her prominence in poetic magazines as well as the humorous monthlies.

Mrs. Audouard was married in Shanghai during the summer of 1932, and only returned to Shanghai after long leave with her husband about four weeks ago.

Funeral arrangements are in the hands of the International Funeral Directors, who are awaiting a reply to a cabled notice to the deceased's parents in Susanville, California.

D.C. (Special Branch)

Sir,

Information.

\$2.

Please inform  
A and pass to Reg.  
to file. M.B.

S.A. Reg.

J. A. Dick  
29/12/34

A. in person  
passed on you.  
JHR 7/1

DRG 29/12/34

## FOREIGN WOMAN IS FOUND POISONED

Mrs. R. Audouard Lying  
In Critical State  
At Hospital

### RESCUERS FORCED TO BURST OPEN DOOR

Some two hours after Reginald Pickford was found dead in a hotel room, police from Bubbling Well Station attended another emergency call to discover Mrs. Merriam Audouard of House No. 12, Lane 20, Seymour Road, lying in a semi-conscious condition on the floor of her home suffering from the effects of veronal poisoning. She was conveyed to the Country Hospital, where everything possible was done to save her life, but at a late hour last night, doctors held out little or no hope for her recovery.

First intimation of the affair came when inmates of the house heard groans and gasps issuing from the apartment which she occupies with her husband, Mr. R. Audouard, of Markt and Company. Efforts to open the door proved fruitless, as it was locked from the inside, and the police were summoned to the scene. Bursting into the room, they found the woman in great agony and knowing that every moment was precious if her life were to be saved, rushed her to the hospital in a station car, where she was treated by Dr. W. Nance.

Mrs. Audouard, who is 25 years of age, was born in the United States of America and is well known in Shanghai newspaper circles, having worked at various times upon the different English language dailies. At that time, she was known as Miss Merriam Griffin. A few years ago, she married Mr. Audouard, a well-known German business man.

The moment the police learnt of the case, they notified the U.S. District Attorney, Mr. Feltham Watson, who is watching the case on behalf of the United States Government. Interviewed last evening, Mr. Watson stated that her marriage might have caused her to forfeit her American citizenship, but he strongly doubted it. "I cannot make any definite statement at the present time," he added.

Dr. S.S.

h/ma...

JHR 29/12